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The paper confines itself to experimental results, and makes no attempt at their interpretation as yet. It is of importance, however, to note that somewhat similar appearances have been demonstrated in the fatigue of the nerve cell, as worked out by the same method.

(2) *I Cambiamenti Microscopici delle Cellule Nervose nella loro Attività funzionale e sotto l'Azione di Agenti Stimolanti e Distruttori.* GIAMBATTISTA VALENZA. Napoli, 1896. Pp. 54. Plates I and II, 22 colored Figs.

This paper will be found especially valuable as a *résumé* of all that has been observed by way of changes in nerve cells under physiological and pathological conditions. For his experiments with electrical stimulation the author used the electric lobe of *Torpedo marmorata* and *ocellata*, stimulating the surface directly. The current was obtained from four large Bunsen cells, the stimulation being obtained from the secondary of a "grande" Du Bois-Reymond coil. The position of the secondary coil, the strength of current, frequency of shocks are only indicated indefinitely, "alta tensione e grande frequenza," "media tensione e media frequenza," etc., which not only makes confirmation of his experiments impossible, but renders comparison of his results with those of others inexact. He obtains a shrinkage of the nucleus, with increase of chromatin toward the centre close to the electrodes, accompanied with irregularity of contour. Farther from the electrodes the nuclei become turgid with their chromatin arranged about the periphery. Valenza is unable to confirm any of the observations which claim to prove mitotic division of nerve cells, indications of division being confined to the ependyma, when they occur. For his destructions he used a red-hot iron, and as a result he obtains some peculiar pictures, fusion of nerve cells, fragmentation of nuclei which simulate mitotic figures, etc. In any such procedure, it is impossible to interpret the results. They may be phenomena of simple steam explosion, heat coagulation, interference with nutrition, poisoning with decomposition products, etc., etc., and certainly throw light only upon similar procedures of other experimenters, and none on the normal or pathological processes which go on in nerve cells. Figure 19 shows two nerve cells from an animal killed by injection of strychnine. In one of the cells the nucleolus is situated in the centre of the nucleus. In the other the drawing and text indicate that it has migrated out into the protoplasm. I have observed many such in my own specimens, and in every case have been able to find evidence that they were simply dragged out of their normal position by the edge of the section knife. We miss throughout the paper any adequate consideration of normal control material.

C. F. H.

(3) *La plasticité Morphologique des Neurones Cérébraux.* DR. JEAN DEMOOR. Arch. de Biologie, XIV, 1896.

In studying the general subject of the plasticity of nerve cells DeMoer has observed a diminution of chromatin in the cells of the cortical visual centres, as a result of thirty minutes' normal function, and, after some time, irregularities in the nucleus and general decrease in the size of the cell. But it is to his other experimental work that special interest attaches. Subcutaneous injection of morphine in dogs has given moniliform swellings of the protoplasmic processes of the cortical cells, recalling those described by Berkley and Andriezen for chronic alcoholism. Even the axis

cylinder is at times affected. Intravenous injection of chloral-hydrate, and complete chloroform narcosis, are accompanied by the same changes, though, in the case of chloral, of less degree. Stimulation of motor areas with an interrupted current has produced also beading of the cell fibrils, with shrinkage of the cell, and a change to a more or less globular shape.

The relation of the whole question to the present theories of contact of cells in function, and possibly also to the phenomena of fatigue, over-exertion and sleep, is pointed out by the author.

COLIN C. STEWART.

(4) *Psychology of the Moral Self.* By B. BOSANQUET. London, Macmillan & Co., 1897, pp. viii+132.

In this work Mr. Bosanquet treats of modern psychological conceptions in their bearing upon ethical problems, with special reference to the modern doctrines of apperception and 'vital series.' In its more psychological aspect the book has two main theses: (1) mind is continuous, not discrete, as the atomism of the associationists would have it, or, more accurately, as the neo-Hegelians represent the associationists to hold; (2) mind on its intellectual side can all be expressed in terms of identity and difference, and has resulted from the differentiation of an original unity into the diversity of present experience.

These principles find concrete form in the definitions of processes. Perception, e. g., is defined as 'the blending of ideal elements by identity, with the objective presentation after the two have passed through a thorough opposition to each other.' 'This blending through identity of points in the contents means a judgment.' Space and time arise when 'experience has enabled us to differentiate them out of the original vague continuum' and the 'essence of their perception depends on the formation within the psychical continuum of groups that have phases.' The explanation of assimilation, discrimination and apperception follows Mr. Stout very closely in the doctrine of 'vital series' and the formation of systems, but they are finally brought under the universal category of identity and difference in the sentence, 'All cognition is identity asserting itself.'

A most ingenious combination of modern psychological doctrines with the Hegelian standpoint is to be found in the two chapters on volition, and the one entitled Reasonable Action. The ideo-motor theory of volition is accepted in its entirety, and is stated in the general principle that ideas tend to realize themselves in action. Viewed in the large, volition is a realization of the self. Now the self is not an abstract unrelated entity, but a system of ideas, many of which have reference to others, so that in realizing itself the individual works at once for its own good and the good of the community at large—is at once egoistic and altruistic without being aware of the distinction. Reasonable action is defined to be 'action' in accordance with the whole systematized self or experience. Stated in Hegelian language it becomes 'the actual identification of the private self with the universal self, the actual surrender of the will to the greater will of the system to which we belong.' In the concluding chapter on Body and Soul the same tendency is shown. All other current views of the relation are rejected in favor of the one that makes the mind the ideality of the body. The puzzle has arisen from hypostatizing the two abstractions, mind and matter. To solve the problem we must go back to the given, which is at once subjective and objective. The position re-